



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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CHRISTIAN COUNTY TOPS KENTUCKY WHEAT PRODUCTION

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the first of its county estimates today from the 2018 production year.

Christian County is the leading wheat producing county in Kentucky for 2018, with production totaling 3,247,000 bushels, harvested from 46,200 acres. The top five counties, which account for 61 percent of Kentucky's wheat production, include:

Christian County – 3,247,000 bushels
Logan County – 2,737,000 bushels
Todd County – 1,918,000 bushels
Simpson County – 1,698,000 bushels
Graves County – 1,270,000 bushels

Union County had the highest yield at 74.8 bushels per acre. The top five counties for yield include:

Union County – 74.8 bushels per acre
Simpson County – 71.9 bushels per acre
Todd County – 71.3 bushels per acre
Christian County – 70.3 bushels per acre
Trigg County – 69.9 bushels per acre.

"The 2018 Kentucky wheat crop will not be remembered as a good crop, and for many growers it was one of their worst crops," said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. "A cool, wet spring weather held back growth and increased disease pressure. June storms further reduced yields and resulted in lighter than average test weights."

Kentucky farmers harvested 19.8 million bushels of winter wheat during the summer of 2018, down seventeen percent from 2017. Yield is 66 bushels per acre, down eleven bushels from 2017. Farmers harvested 300,000 acres for grain, and another 150,000 acres were used as cover crop, cut as forage or abandoned. Kentucky ranks 18th in U.S. wheat production.

County-level estimates are used by other USDA agencies for farm programs and risk protection programs many farmers rely on to protect their operations.

“Farm Service Agency (FSA) relies on the county-level estimates for Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), County Loan Rates, and its disaster program calculations,” Knopf said. “The Risk Management Agency (RMA) uses the data for administering the Area Risk Protection Insurance Plan and establishment of transitional yields. When drought and flooding impact crop production, or even in a year with good yields, these data are crucial to the agriculture industry.”

Over the next several months, NASS will release county estimates for corn, soybeans, hay and tobacco.

Corn and Soybeans – Feb. 22, 2019

Hay – April 18, 2019

Tobacco – April 25, 2019

The complete listing of winter wheat county estimates for each county is available online at

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kentucky/Publications/County_Estimates/coest/2018/index.php. For more information, call the NASS Kentucky Field Office at (800) 928-5277.

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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for “NASS Data User Community.”

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